THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have commissioned 442 retail outlets (ROs) in the state of Kerala during the last three years, *i.e.*, from 2002-03 to 2004-05.

(b) and (c) Before opening the retail outlets, the OMGs conduct feasibility studies of the locations which include assessment of demand for petrol and diesel in the area in question. Details of demand assessments and actual sales in any RO in any State, including Kerala, would be available with the Directors (Marketing) of the oil marketing company concerned.

(d) Percentage growth in sale of petrol and diesel by the public sector OMCs in the State of Kerala during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Growth in sale of	
	Petrol	Diesel
2002-03	10.0%	2.0%
2003-04	8.3%	4.7%
2004-05	3.2%*	1.3%

*Provisional

LPG filling stations in Bangalore

2301. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG filling stations in Bangalore City;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State Government had planned to set up 34 LPG filling stations;

(c) what is the actual requirement of LPG filling stations required considering the number of vehicles in Bangalore; and

(d) what is the role of various oil companies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) As on 1.6.2005, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 15 Auto LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS) in Bangalore city besides one ALDS being operated by M/s. ELF Gas, a private company.

(b) The State Government have requested OMCs to set up 60 ALDS in the city.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the handling capacity of the ALDS functioning at present in Bangalore city, OMCs have reported that these are adequate to cater to the requirement of authorised vehicles fitted with approved kits. Moreover, 24 ALDS of OMCs and 10 ALDS of M/s. ELF Gas are being prepared for commissioning to meet future demand in the city.

Supply of naptha to power stations

2302. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of naptha supplied for power generation will be considerably high from July, 2005 onwards;

(b) if so, the details including total quantity of naptha and the cost of fuel supplied to five stations of Kerala located at Brahmapuram, Kozhikode, Kayamkulam, Kasarkode and Kochi for power generation during 2004-05 and the cost of naptha in the month of July, 2005 onwards, category-wise;

(c) whether steps will be taken to provide naptha at an affordable administered rate till LNG is made available for power generation to these stations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The pricing of naphtha for power generation is based on an import parity pricing mechanism. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) have reported that the sales tax exemption earlier available to M/s BSES Kerala Power Ltd., Kochi and NPTC, Kayamkulam has been withdrawn effective 1st April 2005 owing to the implementation of VAT. Excise duty exemption has also been withdrawn effective 2nd July, 2005. Consequently, this would impact on the price of naphtha supplied to the power plants at Kochi and Kayamkulam.